

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 525

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF AND CJCS FOR ACTION

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, CB

SUBJECT: EFFORT TO REENERGIZE THE KHMER CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

REF: PHNOM PENH 0105

1. SUMMARY. AFTER RECEIVING INDICATIONS THAT JOINT COMMITTEE

WAS BOGGED DOWN IN DETAILS OF INTERPRETING NEW DECREE, CHARGE, CHMEDTC, AND POLMIL COUNSELOR AGAIN MET WITH PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET AND HIS MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES TO REVIEW PROGRESS OF CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN. A DECISION WAS TAKEN TO APPOINT A GENERAL OFFICER AS FULL-TIME "CHIEF OF STAFF" TO OVERSEE THE CAMPAIGN, CENSUS FORMS WERE APPROVED, AND AN EARLY SCHEDULE WAS ESTABLISHED TO BRIEF CITY AND PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS AND TO LAUNCH TEAMS TO PICK UP DRAFT DODGERS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT DEFENSE MINISTER MG THAPPANA NGINN'S REQUEST QC EMBOFF ATTENDED JANUARY 10 JOINT CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING NEW CONSCRIPTION DECREE AND DECISIONS OF JANUARY 4 INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING (REFTEL). THREE HOURS OF DISCUSSION RESULTED ONLY IN DECISIONS TO ASK THE HEADS OF THE TWO BUDDHIST ORDERS FOR SECRET

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AN OPINION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSCRIPTION THAT WOULD NOT ENDANGER BUDDHISM AND TO ESTABLISH AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO DECIDE ON DEFERMENTS FOR TECHNICIANS AND KEY EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE

TO REACH A CLEAR DETERMINATION ON THE MANNER OF ARRESTING
DRAFT DODGERS OR OF DELIVERING DRAFT NOTICES.

3. TO HELP STIMULATE MORE RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
JANUARY 4 DECISIONS BY BOTH THE JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE
PRIME MINISTER'S STAFF IN CHARGE OF NEW CENSUS, CHARGE,
CHMEDTC AND POLMIL COUNSELOR MET WITH PRIME MINISTER LONG
BORET, THAPPANA NGINN, INTERIOR MINISTER CHHANN SOKHUM
AND ASST COFS FOR PERSONNEL BG KIM AN DORE ON AFTERNOON
OF JANUARY 11 TO REVIEW THE CAPAIGN.

FOLLOWING WERE RESULTS:

A. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE HAD INADEQUATE TIME TO DE-
VOTE TO CONSCRIPTION, THAPPANA NGINN ENDORSED PROPOSAL
THAT FULL-TIME CHIEF OF STAFF WITH RANK OF GENERAL BE
APPOINTED TO ASSIST HIM. CANDIDATE MENTIONED FOR THIS
POSITION WAS FORMER KOMPONG CHHNANG GOVERNOR BG YONG YOC
HANG. THAPPANA NGINN AGREED TO SEEK PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL
OF THIS NOMINATION OVER WEEKEND. AS EARLIER AGREED, CHIEF
OF STAFF IS TO HAVE SPECIAL CONSCRIPTION BUDGET.

B. FORMAT FOR CENSUS WAS APPROVED AND WE WERE RE-
QUESTED TO PRINT FIVE MILLION COPIES. (THIS REQUEST IS
BEING FORWARDED 7TH PSYOPS BY SEPTTEL.) MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION HAS STATED THAT IT CAN PRODUCE 1,000 TEACHERS

TO ASSIST IN CENSUS. PRIME MINISTER FLANKED BY MINISTER
OF DEFENSE, MINISTER OF INTERIOR, FINANCE MINISTER, FANK
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, PHNOM PENH GOVERNOR AND NEW CONSCRIPT-
TION CHIEF OF STAFF WILL MEET WITH CITY OFFICIALS ON
JANUARY 15 AND WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS ON JANUARY 17 TO
INSTRUCT THEM ON CENSUS AND NEW CONSCRIPTION EFFORTS.

C. THAPPANA NGINN STATED THAT MIXED TEAMS TO SEEK
OUT DRAFT DODGERS IN PHNOM PENH SUB-DIVISIONS WILL BE FORMED
OVER WEEKEND, THAT DIRECTIONS FOR THEM WILL BE DRAFTED AND
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THAT AFTER ONE WEEK'S INSTRUCTION THEY WILL BE SENT OUT
TO SANGKATS TO BEGIN PICK-UPS.

D. CHARGE DREW ATTENTION TO FACT THAT PRIORITIES IN
ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL ARE NOT BEING RIGIDLY OBSERVED,
THAT PHNOM PENH TERRITORIAL FORCES, WHO HAD RECENTLY
EVACUATED A NUMBER OF POSTS, HAVE CONSEQUENTLY GOT MORE
THAN THEIR SHARE OF MEN AND THAT INTERVENTION FORCES,
WHICH MUST RETAKE TERRITORY CEDED BY TERRITORIALS, REMAIN
UNDERSTRENGTH. MINISTERS AGREED THAT PROPOSAL TO DISSOLVE
CERTAIN TERRITORIAL UNITS AND TO ASSIGN THEIR PERSONNEL
TO GENERAL RESERVE SHOULD BE WORKED OUT AND TAKEN TO THE PRESIDENT

(WE WILL PURSUE SAME LINE WITH FANK C-IN-C
SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, WHO WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND JANUARY 11
MEETING.)
ENDERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND CJCS.

SECRET

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